

Prairie Land Talk—

Val Goes to Denmark

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

LINCOLN—Something over three years back on time's march the Hon. Val Peterson stepped out of the statehouse in Lincoln and took on the work of making something out of nothing.

Near the closing hours of Val's service for Nebraskans as chief executive, he and I had a parting word. The governor stood, a foot up on a cushioned chair, elbow propped on the knee and chin cupped in the open palm, as the retiring governor looked off into space dreaming of what now may lie ahead. Somewhere in the vast row-upon-row of federal projects back there in Washington, came to life the idea of civil defense. President Ike gasped and said there is a guy out there on the Nebraska prairies who should head up this new thing in government activities. So Val Peterson, a small town newspaper editor just retiring as governor, was assigned the job.



Romaine Saunders

No prairie patriot assigned to an important federal post ever did more to try to make something out of nothing. With the instinct of companions in misery, Val took three or four Nebraska newspaper guys to Washington with him. Val now goes to Denmark as diplomatic representative of Yankeeland and civil defense goes on the shelf, an abortive effort of government to order John and Joe and Mary and Mae to get out of the way and let official representatives take care of disaster victims.

But John and Joe and Mary and Mae of the communities struck this season by destructive storms were the ones that cleared away the wreckage and cared for the injured. No official trumpet blowing can replace the neighborly hand of helpfulness.

Down at Wayne lives a pal of our romantic days in O'Neill. I recently had word from Oran Bowen, who for years had been an instructor in the Wayne Normal. His first experience as a teacher was at the Little school in southern Holt county and as a few of us in the long-ago gave him the glad hand as he was taking off for that school. A tear moistened Oran's youthful cheek, a thing that has come to many a young person venturing out for the first time upon the sea of life alone.

Oran has made good and now, facing the gathering shadows of life's sunset, he lives at peace with the world in Wayne. The Bowen family came to O'Neill from the Atkinson community when Oran's father was elected county judge.

And another pal of the cow trails, Hay McClure, was in Wayne the last he was heard from. Hay roped and branded his last steer at the ranch at the South Fork, married a southern Holt county girl and located in Wayne 40 years ago. The McClures were early day ranchers in Holt county, conducted a mercantile business at one time in O'Neill, and all have now passed out of prairie-land picture.

The slant-eyed bosses over in old China give out that in less than eight years they have "liquidated" 800,000 citizens of that ancient land. In cold-blooded butchery they murdered those that were

of harmony with the reds. The butchery still goes on; not only so but boastful threats are made of what they intend to do to Americans. America is courting no trouble with any people, but if the reds of China start something I take it like is ready for them. The first born son of the father and mother of the human race dipped his hands in his brother's blood and stained his soul with earth's first murder. Since then human blood has drenched all lands. Kill—why kill? Kill to rob or to put to death an enemy of human fancy because he lays his soul upon an altar the killer does not like. A gent here in prairie-land's cultured capital city has boasted he would like to see us all hung up by the neck who are not wearing his brand. But he wouldn't kill a chicken for dinner.

The Frontier's had pressed makeup guy picked up eight lines of a recent story in this department and slipped them in nine lines below the connecting sentence. Readers probably concluded that Prairie Land Talker stood on his head as he wrote, but, if interested, ask Editor Cal who the muddlehead was. (Editor's note: In this instance Editor Cal can report the fault was that of Editor Cal.)

Prairie Land has been rained on, irrigation stocks now replaced by a revival of drainage ditch schemes. Citizens of one town down on the Big Blue were said to have ascended to the house tops to get out of water and were calling for boats to be sent into to convey them out of the flooded area. I was given a ride father's day along the highways in farming regions east of the capital city, and here and there a corn field showed water standing in the corn rows, wheat fields yellow with ripening grain, well kept farm homes indicating thriving sons and daughters of the soil. Not enough followed by too much in daily down pours but Nebraska countryside is robed in verdant green stretching in all its beauty to distant horizons.

Another session of the state legislature ends after nearly six months, and a few less than 600 new laws enacted that few if any prairie-land patriots know or care what it is all about. The \$800 salary a state senator gets is left at hotels and lunch counters in Lincoln and some more besides. The last pay check came in May—\$75—to each of the honorable legislative group. Now many of them, like our friend Sen. Frank Nelson, are back home in overalls going at it to make up the deficit six months down at the statehouse left in their bank-book. Primary and general election campaigns cost money, too, and the job of state senator must have other incentive than what the meager salary induces.

Looking out this bright June morning there is seen in the distant realms above the earth's western horizon the cloudless blue sky forming the background over which wave in silken green the leaf adorned limbs of stalwart trees. And from where her nest is hung there comes into the picture a mother oriole on swift wing and is gone. The blue sky is spread unmoved in silent beauty above the green robed landscape as we look out upon the scene hung upon the scroll of nature another morning.

Editorial—

Paving Way for World War III

Several weeks ago in these columns in our country way we congratulated David Lawrence, editor of U. S. News & World Report, for a splendid, comprehensive story on the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wisc.) But we were critical of Mr. Lawrence for being two years or so late with the piece, which amounted to a compilation of McCarthy's utterances and performances and also those of his adversaries.

In short, Lawrence's piece showed McCarthy's opponents to have far dirtier linen, yet it was McCarthy who was driven into oblivion where he died.

We made certain Mr. Lawrence received a copy of our piece which congratulated and scolded him simultaneously. We also rapped Mr. Lawrence for supporting the administration's ponderous budget.

Mr. Lawrence's reply:

Actually, I did not wait until Senator McCarthy's death to write the facts—enclosed are two editorials written at the time of the hearings which you probably did not see.

As for your disagreement with me on the question of the budget and spending—I suppose it would be a dull world if we all agreed on everything. However, if we continue to use the meat axe on appropriations we will be just paving the way for a third world war. If that happens, the budget will really skyrocket and the loss of life, of course, will be terrific.

Sincerely yours, DAVID LAWRENCE

P. S.: Incidentally, there were innumerable dispatches I wrote for the newspapers about Senator McCarthy along the same line.

Legislature Quits—Finally

Nebraska's unicameral legislature adjourned last week after establishing several dubious records. It was the longest session on record, most bill ever offered, most laws ever enacted, and the biggest biennium budget in history was adopted.

The legislature created seven new state boards, committees, commissions, etc. State government was launched into a number of new spending programs (financial aid for civil air patrol and local soil conservation districts). State gasoline tax was raised from six to seven cents per gallon. Highway speeds were increased. Rejected again were all proposals for special taxes on big trucks. Extended 10 years was the teacher retirement levy.

Salary increases were approved for many state officers. Cigaret tax was whopped. The record 340-million-dollar budget for the biennium includes a 100-million-dollar increase, mostly for interstate highways.

The state institutional building levy was continued for 10 years but cut from \$1.10 to 75 cents per thousand dollars of assessed property valuation. Maximum payments were increased for recipients of old-age and blind assistance and hunting and fishing fees were raised.

Weather control districts, mosquito abatement

districts, watershed conservancy districts, airport authorities and a transit authority (for Omaha) were authorized.

Curfew Good Idea?

Jack Wells, publisher of the Spencer Advocate, was speculating the other day on how many O'Neill kids actually know how to entertain themselves.

"When the 9 p.m., curfew sounded we were play such games as run-sheep-run, pump-pump-pull-away, tag on stacks of lumber and in railroad stockyards.

"When the 9 p.m., curfew sounded we were home, wornout and in bed.

"By day every kid about town had jobs to do—the only way of earning twobits or fourbits a week for spending money.

"By contrast, O'Neill kids have a swimming pool, youth center, places to go, manufactured entertainment of several kinds.

"It's fashionable," he continued, "in your town and ours for teenagers to stay up half the night, and when you lay down the law on your own you're accused of being unfair.

"I don't know where the entertainment whirl for modern youngsters will lead or end. But I'll be switched if some of the old-fashioned resourcefulness in creating their own wholesome entertainment wouldn't produce better citizens.

"I ask you: How many O'Neill kids know how to play run-sheep-run? How many know rock and roll and the ramifications?

"I'm stumped. I don't know the answers. I don't know whether all this modern youth business is good or bad. I do know the curfew was a good idea when I was a kid, and I think it still is."

In Vermont a man who illegally kills a deer may be fined \$100 to \$300, as indeed, several have. But a man who drives a car while drunk and thereby becomes a potential killer, escapes with only a \$50 fine. If he is only convicted of careless driving, the kind that usually wind up becoming involved in an accident, with death or injury to human beings, he can get off with a \$25 fine. Apparently some of our courts value a deer more highly than a human life.



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When You & I Were Young... Wind Downs Davis House at Chambers

Bert Lawrence Hit by Foul Ball

50 Years Ago A bad wind storm in Chambers blew down the Claud Davis house. All the furniture and dishes were demolished. Frank Jutt's barn was blown down on Jake Hoffman's land. Dan Coffey of Spencer was over to attend the McPharlin-Coffey wedding. Henry J. Hershisher died of Bright's disease at his home located two miles west of the city. Mrs. B. L. Clark and children of Page and Mrs. W. A. Brown drove to Mineola to visit Mrs. Clark's parents. Mr. and Mrs. C. Morgan, Bert Lawrence was hit by a foul ball while playing baseball and was unconscious for several hours.

20 Years Ago Mrs. Sylvia Spar died at her home southeast of Page after an illness of a year. She was a life-long resident of Holt and Antelope counties. A father-son banquet was held at the Dorsey Presbyterian church. V. V. Rosenkrans was the oldest father present. Mrs. Elma Kramer and daughter, Mrs. E. E. Erickson of Chapel Hill, N. C., is visiting her sister, Mrs. H. W. Tomlinson, and other relatives.

10 Years Ago The Elkhorn river, due to heavy rainfall, flooded many acres of farm land. A car, owned by William Miller, was almost completely submerged on the Joe Jareske farm. The Herifords are the new owners of the M and M cafe formerly operated by McMillan & Markey, owners for 36 years. Mr. and Mrs. Merton H. Dierks of Ewing celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mrs.

Viola Morgan was feted on her 84th birthday anniversary. The affair was held at the home of Clayton Messner and Miss Eleta.

One Year Ago Deaths: Henry Albecht, 58, Atkinson rancher; Mrs. Donald Schwager, 25, a Royal farm wife; Mrs. Nellie Conner, 82, of Ewing; Mrs. Levi Hull, 72, O'Neill farm woman; Sam Mohr, 56, a former Holt resident. A family gathering was held at the Clarence Grimes home near Chambers. Mrs. Los Adams, who was released from St. Anthony's hospital to attend, headed a five-generation group that was present.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fernau and Joyce of Valentine are visiting here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Britzell.



Denver U. Grad

Miss Marilyn Gallagher (above), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Gallagher of Inman, was graduated Friday, June 14, at Denver (Colo.) university with a bachelor of arts degree. She will be employed by an advertising agency.

O'Neill News

Winnie Barger departed Sunday for a week's vacation in Wisconsin. She was accompanied on the trip by Mrs. Pauline Walston of Redfield, S.D., field representative for Community Concerts, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. George Janousek and family departed early Sunday for Colorado Springs, Colo., for a week's vacation. Mr. and Mrs. John Kerschenbrock departed Wednesday, June 19, by rail for Chicago, Ill., where they will visit Mr. Kerschenbrock's son, Jack, and Harrisburg, Pa., where they will visit Mrs. Kerschenbrock's daughter, Mrs. Clarence Tadd, and family. They expect to be gone about three weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Peterson of Yankton, S.D., were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bunker.

Mrs. W. H. Fowler of Enid, Okla., visited last week with her mother, Mrs. Laura Walker, and with her sister, Mrs. L. A. Burgess.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Carpenter and Mary Susan returned Wednesday, June 19, from a three-weeks' visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Carpenter, at Wister, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Adamson visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Koenig, in Ewing Sunday. Two of their children, who had been in Ewing for a week's visit, returned with them.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Baker were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Miller at Emmet. Mrs. John Bellin attended the funeral of her uncle, Ralph Jaques, Saturday at Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Zinky of National City, Calif., are visiting her brother, Paul Bourne, and family. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bowen and Mr. and Mrs. John Bowen of Wayne spent the weekend in Omaha. Joe and Gerald Cavanaugh at-

tended the rodeo at Belleville, Kans., from Tuesday, June 18, until Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Harroll and family also attending contest. Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Crabb attended a Crabb family picnic Sunday at Sioux City.

Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Bausch and family of Denver, Colo., arrived Saturday to visit her mother, Mrs. Edna Coyne.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Crabb and Mrs. C. H. Switzer spent the past week on a business and vacation trip through South Dakota and North Dakota, returning by way of Minnesota. At Fargo they missed the tornado by a matter of a few hours last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Cronin spent the weekend in Sioux City visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Drotzman and family spent Sunday in Yank-

ton, S.D., visiting his mother, Mrs. Lucy Drotzman, and his sister, Geraldine, of Minneapolis, Minn., who was visiting at Yankton.

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• 8 x 12 Attached Entry
• 14 x 26 Barn
• 2 Toilets
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• Teachers Desk

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